Functioning of Terror Schools in Pakistan

* 131. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "Pak terror school still functioning" which appeared in the Hindustan Times on 15th October, 2002;

(b) whether the role of ISI in aiding cross border terrorism has now been reoriented and their control over the Pak terror schools/camps grown stronger; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Available inputs indicate that Pak Government has withdrawn temporary restrictions imposed on the Jehadi outfits in PoK, restored their financial/material support and even enhanced assistance to these outfits. Many of the militant camps and training centres which were closed or relocated to interior areas earlier have reopened and a number of launching bases have been reactivated.

Pakistan has strengthened ISI network to spread terrorism from J&K to North-East in the country. Pakistan has also established enduring clandestine infrastructure in Nepal and Bangladesh for facilitating ISI to launch anti-India operations using Fundamentalist Organisations/local rebels and criminal gangs.

(c) The Government is aware of the situation and intelligence and security forces are keeping a close watch over the situation. In order to deal with the Pak ISI menace, the Government has adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, modernization and upgradation of police and security forces with advance sophisticated weapons and communication systems etc.

The Central Government has also been sensitizing the State Governments about the threat perception and activities of ISI in the country. As result of coordinated action taken by the Central and State security and intelligence agencies, a number of Pakistan backed modules have been neutralized in different parts of the country.